The Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd.

83 *MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of officers in the Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd., who are drawing Rs. 100 and above and the communities to which they belong?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: This is an incorporated company in whose day to day management Government have no concern.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Will the member be pleased to state whether that information will be called for from the company?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Even if we ask for the information, the company is not bound to furnish it.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapally* cum *Karthigapally*): May I know from the honourable member the purpose for which this Government have taken 51 per cent. of the shares of the company?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: As already adverted to by the Dewan on several occasions, and even just now, it is considered a vital basic industry and so Government propose to take a major part of the shares so as to have a voice in its working.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Is it for the purpose of any control over the management?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The reason why this Government have taken 51 per cent. of the shares in the Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals Company, is because the Company is considered essential for the future industrial development of the State. Therefore the general policy of the State should be pursued by the company. In a general body meeting or in any other meeting, by virtue of the voting power of Government, Government should be able to insist upon the carrying out of a particular line of policy. Otherwise it is just a private company like any other private company over whose management, and whose personnel we have absolutely no control.

But, at the same time, I may state for the information of honourable members that as part of the agreement with us the agreement has been placed on the table of the House and the articles of association are open to anybody for inspection they are obliged to employ Travancoreans primarily when they are available. At the present moment, undoubtedly a large percentage of non-Travancoreans have been employed by the company; a certain number of them are Americans, a certain number may be Englishmen and a certain number, consisting of chemicals and fertilizers experts may be from other parts of India or of the world. Until the factory is built and the machinery installed, naturally the contractors will alone be in charge of the present personnel. But after it begins to work, they are asked to employ or recruit at least 50 per cent. of their employees from Travancoreans.

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MR. P. O. THOMAS: From the observations of the Chair, I understand that the Government itself is anxious to have Travancoreans employed in the company. In the light of the existence of such anxiety, is not this House entitled to know about the present personnel?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have made it clear even to companies in which Government have not interested themselves that they should employ Travancoreans as far as possible and if I find that they are not employing Travancoreans when they are available any concessions which they will ask for from this Government will not be granted.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: My point is; the answer to the question is, that this Government is unable to get the information.

PRESIDENT: Both unable and unwilling. I want to be perfectly candid.....

MR. P. O. THOMAS: In view of that clause, is not the Government entitled to get the information?

PRESIDENT: If Government ask for the information the company might give it, but Government do not propose to do so, because they do not mean to pursue the policy of pulling up a plant to see how the roots are progressing. The company has got to proceed with their work so that they may make some profits. If Travancoreans are available they will employ them. I have enough confidence in their discretion to allow them to employ such men as they think are necessary for their work. If I find that Travancoreans who are qualified are not appointed, then it will be time for Government to interfere.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Then the clause is only a pious wish.....

PRESIDENT: Yes, it is only a pious wish.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether it is not bound to give the information to Government?

PRESIDENT: No, certainly not, because it is only a private company. Has this House the right to know how many persons are employed in the company owned by, say, Mr. Tolson? I take it that Mr. Tolson is aware of the policy of this Government and that he will entertain as many Travancoreans as possible in the concerns with which he is concerned. But I do not think it will be possible for this House to ask for the information from him.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: But in this particular company Government have taken 51 per cent. of the shares. So that makes a difference from the companies of Mr. Tolson.

PRESIDENT: I may inform the House that in pursuance of their policy, Government have gone on purchasing all the available shares in the K. D. H. P. company and at present they have got a lot of shares.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathur*): May I know whether Government have got the information of how many persons are employed in that company?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No, Sir.

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